

REMARKS

In the Amendment, various claims have been amended to further improve their form and/or clarity in conformity with the U.S. practice. Claims have also been amended to correct typographical errors.

No new matter has been added. Entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-57 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Requirement for Restriction, Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-37, for prosecution.

The present application is a National Stage application of PCT/DK2004/000476, filed July 2, 2004, and thus the Unity of Invention requirement under the PCT rules applies.

Under PCT Rule 13.2 "Circumstances in Which the Requirement of Unity of Invention is to Be Considered Fulfilled":

Where a group of invention is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

Further, MPEP 1850.II states:

Unity of invention has to be considered in the first place only in relation to the independent claims in an international application and not the dependent claims... The examiner should bear in mind that a claim may also contain a reference to another claim even if it is not a dependent claim as defined in PCT Rule 6.4.

In the present application, elected claims 1-37 (Group I) are directed to a method of producing an IPN. An IPN is a polymer material, which naturally has a shape, for example, as recited in claim 37.

Claims 38-40 and 49-51 (Group II) relate to specific applications of an IPN for which it is shaped. Claims 38-40 and 49-51 depend from claim 1 and thus include all the features recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claims 38-40 and 49-51 have unity with claim 1.

Claims 41-44, 52 and 53 (Group III) relate to a method of producing an IPN which IPN has been provided for a specific application and has therefore been provided with a specific shape. Claims 41-44, 52 and 53 depend from claim 1 and thus include all the features recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claims 41-44, 52 and 53 have unity with claim 1.

Claims 45-48 (Group IV) relate to a product obtained by the process of claim 1 and thus have unity with claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the restriction. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin non-elected claims 38-53 after claims 1-37 are found allowable, pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

II. Conclusion

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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